

PUGET SOUND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 3, 2014 | Week 4

The Puget Sound Legislative Update highlights the issues related to our region's work to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound, Washington's greatest natural asset. Previous editions are posted on our website:

www.psp.wa.gov/legislative_updates.php

Congratulations to the Seattle Seahawks and the 12th Man on an impressive Super Bowl victory! Hopefully the energy and enthusiasm from this decisive win will help us finish the legislative session strong and soon. Here's what's Hot for Week 4.

Thursday is the first policy cutoff. Legislation that does not advance from committee by Feb. 7 is usually considered "dead." Important issues positioned to advance include:

- Prevention of derelict and abandoned vessels (HB 2457)
- Removal of fish passage barriers (HB 2346)
- Enhancing the safety of the transportation of oil (HB 2347)
- Fostering the economic resilience of the maritime industry (HB 2580)

New issues recently sponsored and scheduled for public hearing include studying the transport of hazardous materials and authorizing funding for flood hazard reduction and stormwater projects. Details are below.

There will be many bills added and removed from the legislative calendar because of the policy cutoff. The best way to keep up to date on the status of bills you care most about is: www.leg.wa.gov.

Hot Topics

Flood Control and Stormwater Funding—On Tuesday, the House Capital Budget Committee will conduct a public hearing on two bills to authorize the issuance of state general obligation bonds to fund flood hazard reduction and stormwater projects (*House Bill 2356 and House Bill 2357*). On Thursday, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will conduct a public hearing on Senate Bill 6516, which would create a joint legislative task force to study financing options for water supply, flood control, and stormwater projects.

2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- The 2014 Legislative Session is scheduled from Jan. 13 to March 13.
- Puget Sound Legislative Updates are posted at: http://www.psp.wa.gov/legislative_updates.php
- For up-to-date Legislative information, visit: www.leg.wa.gov
- Watch or listen to hearings and work sessions on: www.tvw.org
- Board members can participate in weekly coordination calls about issues in Olympia every Friday from 11:30 to Noon.
- Connect with PSP for breaking news and other events affecting Puget Sound on Twitter @PSPPartnership and Facebook: www.facebook.com/PugetSoundPartnership

Communication & Coordination

If you would like to meet with legislators or testify on a bill, please contact me to let us know how we can help:

Michael Grayum

State and Local Government
Relations Director, 360-628-1907

Flood Plain Management—On Tuesday, the House Capital Budget Committee will examine the importance of the new approach and multiple benefits from coordinated investments in floodplains. Their work session will include a high-level overview from Pierce County, King County, Department of Ecology, and The Nature Conservancy. A more in-depth work session is scheduled for Feb. 18 and will include the Puget Sound Partnership, federal agencies, and local implementing organizations. Also, this Thursday, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a work session on the infrastructure needs associated with water supply and flood control. Ecology Director Maia Bellon and the Office of Financial Management Director David Schumacher will present information about how to address these important and complicated issues.

Flood Control and Stormwater Funding— On Tuesday, the House Capital Budget Committee will conduct a public hearing regarding two bills to authorize the issuance of state general obligation bonds to fund flood hazard reductions and stormwater projects (*House Bill 2356 and House Bill 2357*). On Thursday, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will conduct a public hearing on Senate Bill 6516, which would create a joint legislative task force to study financing options for water supply, flood control, and stormwater projects.

Fish Passage Barriers—The removal of fish passage barriers is imperative to Puget Sound recovery, and three bills have been introduced to address this topic. We appreciate the many partners who are working together to advance this legislation. Senate Bill 6509, sponsored by newly appointed Sen. Marko Liias is scheduled for public hearing on Tuesday. The bill is broadly supported and reflects the latest version of House Bill 2251, which is sponsored by Rep. Wilcox and recently advanced from the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee. In addition, Rep. Farrell has sponsored House Bill 2346, which would require the Department of Transportation to coordinate with natural resource agencies, local governments, land owners and tribes when determining the prioritization of fish passage barrier removal. The main goal of the bill is to achieve the greatest cost savings to all parties involved. Rep. Farrell's bill is scheduled for executive action this week and may also be incorporated into Rep. Wilcox's bill. Please stay tuned.

Session Cutoff Calendar

Legislation that fails to move past a cut-off deadline is usually considered "dead."

- Feb. 7 - Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except fiscal and transportation committees.
- Feb. 11 - Last day to read in committee reports from fiscal and transportation committees in house of origin.
- Feb. 18 - Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
- Feb. 28 - Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except fiscal and transportation committees.
- March 3 - Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from fiscal and transportation committees.
- March 7 - Last day to consider opposite house bills, except budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets.
- March 13 - Last day allowed for regular session under State Constitution.

Maritime & Manufacturing Economic Resilience—House Bill 2580, sponsored by Rep. Tarleton, would establish a bi-partisan Legislative Task Force to foster economic resilience and development of the maritime industry and other manufacturing sectors. The bill would also require the State Geologist to update and improve the seismic scenario catalog, which would be instrumental for long-term planning and mitigation in preparing for earthquake disasters. The Partnership testified in support of this legislation, emphasizing the important nexus between a strong economy and a healthy environment. The bill is scheduled for executive action this week.

Transporting Hazardous Materials—Sen. Ericksen, Chair of the Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee, recently introduced Senate Bill 6524 to direct Ecology to coordinate with other entities to conduct a series of studies and actions, including:

- Study emergency response and spill prevention programs.
- Study and report on state and federal contingency plans and progress being made.
- Study the safety of transporting oil and hazardous materials through waters of the state.
- Hold a symposium on emergency spill prevention and response activities for oil and hazardous materials transported in the Pacific Northwest region.
- Develop a grant program for emergency first responders to meet the needs for oil and hazardous materials spill prevention and response plans.

The completion of these studies and recommendations would be due to the Legislature as early as Dec. 1, 2014. The bill appropriates \$10 million to the Department of Ecology from the Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account.

Additionally, Sen. Rolfes sponsored Senate Bill 6262 earlier this year to implement several actions to enhance the safety of the transportation of oil. Unfortunately, the bill has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing. The companion bill in the House (*House Bill 2347*), sponsored by Rep. Farrell, has been refined and is scheduled for executive action in the Environment Committee this week. The Partnership supports and testified in favor of the intent of this legislation.

Fuel Tax Exemption—House Bill 2465, sponsored by Rep. Carlyle, would narrow the tax exemption on extracted fuel to provide funding for the education legacy trust account. The bill addresses the much discussed “fuel tax loophole,” which was created in 1949, to exempt the timber industry’s burning of wood scraps for energy. Since that time, the exemption has also been used by the oil industry to exempt their use of fuel in refining activities. Some legislators assert this was not the original intent of the exemption. The oil industry doesn’t share this perspective, and there will be a public hearing this Thursday in the House Finance Committee.

Puget Sound Legislative Priorities

Supplemental Budget—We prioritized and ranked Puget Sound budget requests from other state agencies to help legislators make the most of limited tax dollars. We've shared these priorities with legislators and staff, and will continue meeting with them as attention on the budget increases after the policy cutoff. However, beyond fulfilling the McCleary obligation, few changes to the supplemental budget are anticipated. The Legislature writes a two-year budget during odd years (2013-14). The short legislative session is about making minor adjustments to fix incorrect assumptions and address the most critical investments.

Forage Fish Monitoring—Senate Bill 6072, sponsored by Sen. Rolfe to monitor forage fish in Puget Sound, advanced from the Natural Resources & Parks Committee last week. The Partnership supports and testified in favor of this legislation because forage fish form the basis for the food chain and are vitally important to the health of Puget Sound. Monitoring is not sexy, but it is an important scientific tool for helping evaluate the effectiveness of actions and ensure accountability for investments.

Public Works Assistance Account—Last week the House Capital Budget Committee held a work session to understand the impacts of diverting funds from the Public Works Assistance Account to the state General Fund. They also held hearings on House Bill 2244 and House Joint Resolution 4215, both of which would end the diversion of the Public Works Assistance Account to other purposes. Puget Sound Leadership Council member Dan O'Neal testified in favor of these proposals. He emphasized the need for local governments to continue investing in improving our aging or antiquated infrastructure to ensure clean water stays clean and polluted water is treated. These are critical issues to the health of Puget Sound and we must get in front of them as population continues to increase throughout our region.

Puget Sound Watershed Councils—Senate Bill 6381, sponsored by Sen. Ranker, received a public hearing last week. The bill would authorize the Partnership to review the many watershed councils that have been created over time and work with them to provide recommendations to strengthen their roles in achieving a healthy Puget Sound. We testified in support of the bill and there was no opposition. We emphasized our unique role for improving regional alignment, accountability and efficiency, and how this legislative authority would enhance our efforts. You can watch the hearing on TVW at:

http://tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvplayer&eventID=2014011288

Sign-up for Puget Sound Partnership Updates

You can receive regular updates by signing-up for our electronic newsletter or E-clips news clipping service at http://www.psp.wa.gov/contact_simple.php.

Bill Status

Here's a summary of legislation we are tracking that our partners care about and is scheduled for action.

Urban Growth & Public Works (water & sewer infrastructure)

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
SHB 1049	Flood control districts	H Rules R	Takko	Jan 31 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Local Government. Passed to Rules for second reading.
SHB 2186	Sewer system selection	H Local Govt	Takko	Jan 27 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Local Government. First substitute bill passed. Companion bill SB 5995 not moving.
HB 2188	Diking district annexations	H Rules R	Takko	Jan 16 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Local Government. Passed to Rules for second reading.
HB 2618	Code city public works	H Local Govt	Gregerson	Feb 3 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Local Government at 1:30 PM.
HB 2245	Urban growth areas/vesting	H Local Govt	Ormsby	Feb 3 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Local Government at 1:30 PM.
HB 2269	Infrastructure project cost	H Environment	Taylor	Feb 4 Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Environment at 10:00 AM.
HB 2356	Flood hazard reduction/bonds	H Cap Budget	DeBolt	Feb 4 Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Capital Budget at 8:00 AM.
HB 2357	Flood hazard and storm water	H Cap Budget	DeBolt	Feb 4 Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Capital Budget at 8:00 AM.
SB 6194	Voluntary planning under GMA	S Rules 2	Dansel	Jan. 31 Passed to Rules for second reading.
HB 2499	School siting	H Local Govt	Wilcox	Feb 3 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Local Government at 1:30 PM. Companion bill SB 6221 not moving.
HB 2234	Comprehensive plans/vesting	H Local Govt	Fitzgibbon	Feb 3 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Local Government at 1:30 PM.
HB 2288	Wells/gr mgmt hearings brds	H Local Govt	Buys	Feb 3 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Local Government at 1:30 PM. Companion bill 5983 not moving.

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
HJR 4215	Local public wrks/tx revenue	H Cap Budget	Warnick	Jan 30 Public hearing in the House Committee on Capital Budget.
SB 6117	Storm water control rates	S Energy, Environ	Benton	Feb 4 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment & Telecommunications at 1:30 PM.
SSB 6207	Water facility fee immunity	S Rules 2	Angel	Jan 30 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks. Passed to Rules for second reading. Companion bill HB 2631 not moving.
SB 6516	Task force/water supply, etc	S Ways & Means	Honeyford	Feb 6 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 3:30 PM.

Habitat

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
ESHB 1090	Dock construction	S Natural Resources	Shea	Jan. 22 Passed House Rules Committee. Jan. 23 First reading in Senate, to Natural Resources & Parks.
HB 2218	Lake & beach mgmt districts	H Local Govt	Haigh	Feb 3 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Local Government at 1:30 PM. Companion bill SB 6031 to Rules for 2 nd reading.
SHB 2251	Fish barrier removals	H Approps	Wilcox	Jan 24 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources. Jan. 29 Referred to Appropriations.
HB 2346	Fish passage barrier removal	H Trans	Farrell	Feb 6 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Transportation at 10:00 AM.
HB 2386	Washington's shoreline	H Environment	Van De Wege	Feb. 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Environment at 10 AM. Companion bill SB 6246 to Rules for 2 nd reading.
HB 2580	Maritime industry, etc.	H Tech & Econ D	Tarleton	Feb. 4 Scheduled for executive session in House Committee on Technology & Economic Development at 1:30 PM.
SSB 5973	Community forest trust acct	S Ways & Means	Rolfes	Jan 30 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means. Second substitute bill passed. Companion bill SHB 2126 passed to H Approp Sub Gen Gov't & Info Tech.

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
SSB 6076	Parks and recreational land	S Rules 2	Benton	Jan 30 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks. Passed to Rules for second reading.
SB 6180	Forest lands & timber lands	S Ways & Means	Braun	Jan 30 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks. Passed and referred to Ways & Means.
SB 6246	Washington's shoreline	S Rules 2	McCoy	Jan 30 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks. Passed to Rules for second reading. Companion bill HB 2386 Feb. 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Environment at 10:00 AM.
SB 6478	Forest & fish program funds	S Ways & Means	Hill	Feb 3 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 3:30 PM.
SB 6509	Fish barrier removals	S Natural Resourc	Lias	Feb 4 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM.

Water Quality & Water Quantity

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
HB 2454	Water quality trading program	H Ag & Nat Res	Blake	Feb 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources at 1:30 PM.
HB 2472	Water quality determinations	H Ag & Nat Res	Kretz	Feb 5 Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources at 3:30 PM. Companion bill SB 6288 Feb. 5 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment & Telecommunications at 8:00 AM
SB 6381	Watershed councils/Puget Sd.	S Energy, Enviro	Ranker	Jan 29 Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment & Telecommunications.
SB 6467	Skagit river basin water use	S Ag/ Water/RurEc	Honeyford	Feb. 4 Public hearing in Senate Committee on Agriculture & Water & Rural Econ Development at 10:00 AM.

Economic Development

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
HB 2580	Maritime industry, etc.	H Tech & Econ D	Tarleton	Feb. 4 Scheduled for executive session House Committee on Technology & Economic Development at 1:30 PM.
HB 2596	Rural cnty sales & use taxes	H Ag & Nat Res	Chandler	Feb 4 Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources at 1:30 PM. Companion bill is SB 6239.
SB 6472	Tax/recreation services, etc	S Ways & Means	Hill	Feb 3 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 3:30 PM. Companion bill HB 2539 Feb 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Finance at 8:00 AM.

Fish & Shellfish

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
SHB 2387	Official state oyster	H Govt Operations & Elections	Blake	Jan 29 Public hearing and executive action taken in the House Committee on Government Operations & Elections. Substitute bill passed. Companion bill SB 6145 to Rules for 2 nd reading.
SSB 6072	Forage fish biennial update	S Rules 2	Rolfes	Jan 30 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks. First substitute bill passed to Rules for second reading.

Invasive Species

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
HB 2458	Invasive species	H Ag & Nat Res	MacEwen	Feb 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources at 1:30 PM. Companion bill SB 6040 not moving.

Climate Change & Ocean Acidification

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
SB 5992	Irrigation/incr. electricity	S Rules 2	Ericksen	Jan 16 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment & Telecommunications. Passed to Rules for second reading.
SSB 6058	Hydroelectric generation/BPA	S Rules 2	Brown	Jan 16 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment & Telecommunications. Passed to Rules for second reading. Companion bill HB 2112 not moving.

Oil Spill Prevention & Response

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
HB 2347	Oil transportation safety	H Environment	Farrell	Feb 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Environment at 10:00 AM.
HB 2439	Environmental statutes/DOE	H Environment	Takko	Jan 31 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Environment.
HB 2440	Oil or oils, definition of	H Environment	Fitzgibbon	Jan 31 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Environment at 8:00 AM. Companion bill SB 6243 passed to Rules for 2 nd reading.
HB 2457	Derelict & abandoned vessels	H Ag & Nat Res	Hansen	Feb 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources at 1:30 PM.
SB 6243	Oil or oils, definition of	S Rules 2	Ericksen	Jan 29 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment & Telecommunications. Passed to Rules for second reading. Companion bill is HB 2440.
SB 6524	Hazardous materials	S Energy, Environ	Ericksen	Feb 4 Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment & Telecommunications at 1:30 PM.

Toxics

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
HB 1579 (Companion SB 5425 not moving)	Paint stewardship	H Environment	Goodman	Feb. 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Environment at 1:30 PM.
HB 2246 (Companion bill SB 6177)	Mercury-containing lights	H Environment	Hunt, S.	Jan 31 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Environment.
SSB 6086	State agency PCBs reduction	S Rules 2	Billig	Jan 29 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment & Telecommunications. Passed to Rules for second reading.
SB 6157 (Companion bill HB 2469 not moving)	Hazardous substance tax exem	Ways & Means	Hatfield	Jan 28 Referred to Ways & Means.

Regulatory Enforcement

BILL	TITLE	COMMITTEE	SPONSOR	LATEST CMTE MTNG INFO
HB 2261	Science use/agency actions	H Ag & Nat Res	Short	Jan 31 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
SHB 2262	Science use/agency actions	H Environment	Short	Jan 28 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Environment. Substitute bill passed.
HB 2312	Environmental decisions	H Environment	Pollet	Feb 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Environment at 10:00 AM. Companion bill is SB 6417.
HB 2460	Fish & wildlife enforcement	H Ag & Nat Res	Blake	Feb 4 Scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources at 1:30 PM. Companion bill SB 6041 to Rules for 2 nd reading.
HB 2438	Environmental statutes	H Rules R	Takko	Jan 28 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Environment. Passed to Rules for second reading.